

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3568

UNCLAS LONDON 11328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: TWO CREWMEN LOST IN SINKING OF HEATH YACHT

1. MORNING CLOUD II, RACING YACHT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER HEATH, FOUNDERED AND SANK LATE MONDAY EVENING (2 SEPTEMBER) IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL OFF SHOREHAM. TWO CREW MEMBERS INCLUDING THE GODSON OF THE TORY LEADER WERE LOST. MR HEATH WAS NOT ON BOARD.

2. THE TWO MEN LOST WERE MR CHRISTOPHER CHADD AND MR NIGEL CUMMINGS. THE BODY OF CHADD -- MR HEATH'S 23 YEAR OLD GODSON -- WAS RECOVERED ON 3 SEPTEMBER; THE SEARCH FOR MR CUMMINGS WAS ABANDONED LAST NIGHT WITH THE STORM STILL RAGING.

3. TODAY'S BRITISH PRESS CARRIES NUMEROUS ACCOUNTS OF THE SINKING AND IS FULL OF SYMPATHY FOR MR HEATH AND HIS COLLEAGUES. THE RACING YACHT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL DOZEN LOST IN FORCE 9 GALES THAT SWEEPED THE CHANNEL ON 2 SEPTEMBER, RAISING HUGE WAVES AND REGISTERING WINDS OF MORE THAN 70 MPH.
SOHM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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